

Swedish editors held in custody

From Roger Choate
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Two magazine editors who published startling allegations about the Swedish secret service were placed in custody today. Mr Peter Bratt and Mr Jan Guillou, who were detained last month, were placed in custody at a court session accused of spying against the service. Also held in custody was a former secret service agent.

Mr Guillou surprised the court today when he said that he had ordered electronic eavesdropping devices to deploy against foreign powers but had not used them. Mr Carl-Axel Roberts, the prosecutor, said that occasionally Mr Guillou had provided the Swedish security police with information.

It was the first court hearing for the three men since their arrest on October 22. They have not yet been formally charged.

The editors started a political furor here with the publication of a series of articles listing alleged activities performed by

the secret service, which they said violated Swedish neutrality.

The articles in *Fib/Kulturnfront*, a left-wing periodical, asserted that the secret service had worked closely with the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and had transmitted information to it about conditions in North Vietnam at the height of the Indo-China conflict.

The articles suggested that the intelligence organization worked hand in glove with Israel agents, spied on Arab embassies, and had broken into the Egyptian Chancellery in Stockholm in 1970.

Mr Bratt, who has written a book about the secret intelligence group, alleged that it had broken the codes of several foreign powers and kept close tabs on left-wing members of the ruling Social Democratic Party and trade unions. It maintained an ideological blacklist of Swedish citizens, the editors said.

Some of the accusations have been denied by Mr Olof Palme,

the Prime Minister, who said: "These lads have read too many Indian books and bad detective novels. . . . It is certainly not the truth they are after. Their enemy is our democratic reformist society."

Opposition parties have demanded a full investigation of the work of the secret service, and the circumstances leading to the detention of the editors. They were arrested in night raids at their homes in a large-scale security police operation, which also involved a raid on their office.

Legal experts said that under Swedish law it was possible in some circumstances for the police to detain people for long periods before they were formally placed in custody. A certain respect for civil liberties, characteristic of Anglo-Saxon law, is not so apparent in Sweden, where the inclination is rather towards the observance of procedure and custom with only a thin line dividing administrative and judicial authorities.